

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions in a markup language for interactively presenting information to a user, said instructions arranged, upon processing by a rendering agent, to cause one or more processors executing the rendering agent to perform the steps of:

displaying simultaneously a first chart and a second chart;
detecting an event relating to the first chart; and
in response to the event, replacing the second chart with a third chart so as to display simultaneously the first chart and the third chart.

2. A computer-readable medium according to claim 1, wherein:
the first chart is partitioned into a plurality of active regions; and
the event includes a cursor control event relating to one of the active regions.

3. A computer-readable medium according to claim 2, wherein said instructions are further arranged to cause the one or more processors executing the rendering agent to perform the step of:

selecting the third chart from a plurality of charts based on the one of the active regions indicated by the cursor control event.

4. A computer-readable medium according to claim 3, wherein said instructions are further arranged to cause the one or more processors executing the rendering agent to perform the step of:

detecting another cursor control event, wherein other cursor control event relates to another one of the active regions;

in response to the other cursor control event, performing the steps of:

selecting a fourth chart from the plurality of charts based on the other of the active regions indicated by the other cursor control event; and

replacing the third chart with the fourth chart so as to display simultaneously the first chart and the third chart.

5. A computer-readable medium according to claim 1, wherein the event includes a movement of a cursor over the first chart, a movement of the cursor out of the first chart, or a click when the cursor is positioned over the first chart.

6. A method for producing a computer-readable medium according to claim 1, said computer-readable medium bearing the instructions in the markup language for presenting information to a user, comprising:

receiving content and styling information for the first chart, second chart, and the third chart; generating the instructions in the markup language based on the content and styling information for the first chart, second chart, and the third chart; and embodying the instructions in the computer-readable medium according to claim 1.

7. A method for operating a computer system with a computer-readable medium according to claim 1 to present information interactively, said computer-readable medium bearing the instructions in the markup language for presenting information to a user, comprising:

making the computer-readable medium according to claim 1 accessible to the computer system; and

executing a rendering agent to load and render the information in accordance with the instructions in the markup language.

8. A computer-readable medium according to claim 1, wherein the instructions in the markup language comprise:

a map element specifying an image map;

a first image element referencing the first chart and the image map specified by the map element; and

a second image element referencing the second chart;

wherein the map element includes an area element that has an event attribute specifying replacement of the second chart with a third chart in response to the cursor control event.

9. A computer-readable medium according to claim 1, wherein the instructions in the markup language are embodied on a single web page.

10. A computer-readable medium according to claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the second chart with the third chart is performed without loading another web page.

11. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions in a markup language for interactively presenting information to a user, said instructions embodied on a single web page comprising:

a map element specifying an image map;

a first image element referencing the first chart and the image map specified by the map element; and

a second image element referencing the second chart;

wherein the map element includes an area element that has an event attribute specifying replacement of the second chart with a third chart in response to an event.

12. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions in a markup language for interactively presenting information to a user, said instructions embodied on a single web page comprising:

- a map element specifying an image map;
 - a first image element referencing a first image to be rendered in a first area and the image map; and
 - a second image element referencing a second image to be rendered in a second area;
- wherein the map element includes an area element that has:

- a shape attribute specifying a geometry that overlaps at least part of the first area and does not overlap the second area; and
- an event attribute specifying replacement of the second image with a third image in response to an event.

13. A computer-readable medium as in claim 12, wherein the event includes a movement of a cursor into the geometry specified by the shape attribute.

14. A computer-readable medium as in claim 13, wherein the map element includes another area element that has:

- another shape attribute specifying another geometry that overlaps at least part of the first area and does not overlap the second area; and
- another event attribute specifying replacement of the second image with a fourth image in response to another movement of the cursor into the other geometry specified by the other shape attribute.

15. A method for producing a computer-readable medium according to claim 12, said computer-readable medium bearing the instructions in the markup language for presenting information to a user, comprising:

- receiving content and styling information for the first chart, second chart, and the third chart;

generating the instructions in the markup language based on the content and styling information for the first chart, second chart, and the third chart; and
embodying the instructions in the computer-readable medium according to claim 12.

16. A method for operating a computer system with a computer-readable medium according to claim 12 to present information interactively, said computer-readable medium bearing the instructions in the markup language for presenting information to a user, comprising:

causing the computer-readable medium according to claim 12 to be accessible to the computer system; and
executing a rendering agent to load and render the information in accordance with the instructions in the markup language.

15. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions in a markup language for interactively presenting information to a user, said instructions arranged, upon processing by a rendering agent, to cause one or more processors executing the rendering agent to perform the steps of:

displaying simultaneously a first chart, a second chart, and a third chart;
in response to an event relating to the first chart, replacing the second chart with a fourth chart and replacing the third chart with a fifth chart so as to display simultaneously the first chart, the fourth chart, and the fifth chart; and
in response to an event relating to second chart, replacing the third chart with a sixth chart so as to display simultaneously the first chart, second chart, and the sixth chart.

16. A method for producing a computer-readable medium according to claim 15, said computer-readable medium bearing the instructions in the markup language for presenting information to a user, comprising:

receiving content and styling information for the first chart, second chart, the third chart, the fourth chart, the fifth chart, and the sixth chart;

generating the instructions in the markup language based on the content and styling information for the first chart, second chart, the third chart, the fourth chart, the fifth chart, and the sixth chart; and
embodying the instructions in the computer-readable medium according to claim 15.

17. A method for operating a computer system with a computer-readable medium according to claim 15 to present information interactively, said computer-readable medium bearing the instructions in the markup language for presenting information to a user, comprising:

causing the computer-readable medium according to claim 15 to be accessible to the computer system; and
executing a rendering agent to load and render the information in accordance with the instructions in the markup language.

18. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, said instructions comprising:

a first map element specifying a first image map;
a second map element specifying a second image map;
a first image element referencing the first chart and the first image map; and
a second image element referencing the second chart and the second image map;
a third image element referencing the third chart;
wherein the first map element includes an area element that has an event attribute specifying replacement of the second image map with a third image map in response to an event.

19. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions in a markup language for interactively presenting information to a user, said instructions comprising:

a first map element specifying a first image map;
a second map element specifying a second image map;
a first image element referencing a first image to be rendered in a first area and the first image map;

a second image element referencing a second image to be rendered in a second area and the second image map; and

a third image element referencing a third image to be rendered in a third area;

wherein the first map element includes an area element that has:

a shape attribute specifying a geometry that overlaps at least part of the first area and does not overlap the second area; and

an event attribute specifying replacement of the second image map with a third image map in response to an event.

20. A computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the event attribute further specifies replacement of the second image with a fourth image and replacement of the third image with a fifth image in response to the event.